

4. Water Conservation Program - Water Shortage Warning

The following voluntary water conservation measures and programs will be actively promoted and implemented during the water shortage warning stage:

a. Domestic and Other Sanitary Uses

The Department, municipalities, and public water supply systems should step-up public education programs concerning the reduction of in-home domestic use by implementing water conserving measures and installing water conserving devices. Municipalities and public water supply systems should make concerted efforts to advise the public and consumers of the need for early conservation efforts in light of water shortage warning conditions. Additional restrictions may apply for outdoor irrigation use as outlined in Item f.

- (1) Inside and outside aesthetic uses (i.e. lawn watering) of water should be voluntarily reduced.
- (2) Water used for washing and/or flushing streets, driveways, and other impervious areas should be voluntarily reduced.
- (3) Water used for recreation should be voluntarily reduced.
- (4) Water used for outside pressure cleaning should be voluntarily reduced.
- (5) The use of water for automobile and other mobile equipment washing, including boats and trailers, should be voluntarily reduced.
- (6) The use of water for cooling and air conditioning should be voluntarily reduced.

b. Essential Service Use

- (1) Fire hydrant use should be voluntarily reduced to fire fighting only; other uses of hydrants and hydrant flushing should be eliminated unless necessary to protect human health, safety, and welfare.
- (2) Sanitary sewer line flushing and testing should be restricted on a voluntary basis to those activities necessary to protect human health, safety and welfare. System operators should exercise restraint and review maintenance schedules in light of water shortage warning conditions.

c. Public Water Supply System Use

- (1) Public water supply systems should continue implementing conservation measures, including improving and accelerating leak detection surveys and repair programs, installing and calibrating meters, and other water saving measures that may be appropriate.
- (2) New water line flushing and disinfection should be voluntarily reduced to minimum levels necessary to protect public health and safety.

d. Industrial and Commercial Use

- (1) Recycled water should be voluntarily used wherever possible to reduce freshwater use.

(2) Users should continue conservation measures to reduce freshwater use for domestic and sanitary purposes.

(3) Water used for commercial and industrial processes should be voluntarily reduced.

(4) Users should voluntarily reduce nonessential uses, plant and equipment cleaning, water-cooled air conditioning, lawn irrigation, and other freshwater uses where applicable.

e. Institutional Use

Water use should be voluntarily reduced by implementing water conservation techniques. Accelerated efforts should be taken by residential and other large institutions to install water saving plumbing devices.

f. Irrigation Use

(1) Current agricultural irrigation utilizing surface water sources should be voluntarily reduced by 10 to 15%, and when possible, conducted during non-peak evaporation and evapotranspiration hours, preferably after 5:00 p.m. and prior to 9:00 a.m.

Irrigation should be avoided under conditions of high wind.

(2) Small scale agricultural irrigation utilizing surface water sources or water from a public water supply system should be voluntarily reduced. Irrigation utilizing water from a public water supply system should be limited to non-peak water usage hours.

(3) Landscape irrigation of new and existing installations utilizing surface water sources or water from a public water utility should be voluntarily reduced. Irrigation utilizing water from a public water system should be limited to non-peak water usage hours, using a handheld hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle or a hand-held container for smaller areas.

(4) Inside and outside irrigation of nurseries utilizing surface water sources or water from a public water system should be voluntarily reduced. Irrigation utilizing water from a public water system should be limited to non-peak water usage hours.

(5) Irrigation of golf course fairways, roughs, and non-play areas utilizing surface water sources or water from a public water utility should be voluntarily eliminated. Irrigation of greens and tees utilizing water from a public water system should be limited to non-peak water usage hours.

(6) Irrigation of existing and new recreation areas utilizing surface water sources or water from a public water supply system shall be voluntarily reduced. Irrigation utilizing water from a public water system should be limited to non-peak water usage hours.

(7) Irrigation of gardens, trees, shrubs and other plants, except by a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle or container utilizing water from a public water supply system, should be voluntarily limited to non-peak water usage hours.

(8) Treated wastewater irrigation should be encouraged, upon approval of IDEM.

(9) Freshwater used for irrigation should be applied at a minimum rate when possible.

g. Livestock and Poultry Water

Use shall be voluntarily reduced whenever possible.

h. Miscellaneous Uses

- (1) Inside and outside aesthetic uses of water should be voluntarily eliminated except where water is recycled.
- (2) Water used for washing and/or flushing streets, driveways, and other impervious areas should be voluntarily eliminated unless necessary to protect public health and safety.
- (3) Water used for recreation should be voluntarily reduced and the use of water for refilling swimming pools and ice skating rinks after draining should be voluntarily eliminated.
- (4) The use of water for outside pressure cleaning should be voluntarily reduced.
- (5) The use of water for automobile and other non-commercial mobile equipment washing, including boats and trailers, by means other than facilities which utilize water recycling equipment, or by a bucket, pail or hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle, should be voluntarily eliminated.
- (6) Water should be served in public and private places of eating only if specifically requested by a customer.
- (7) The practice of regularly draining and refilling air conditioning cooling towers in order to provide cool water for system operations should be voluntarily eliminated.
- (8) The use of water for cooling and air conditioning should be voluntarily reduced through means such as increasing minimum air conditioning temperatures and thermostat settings. Public education concerning the need to reduce demand on public water supplies and electric generating facilities must be stressed.